Creation of Special Tourism Areas in Different States

4111. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have created special tourism areas in different States;

(b) whether any such area has been identified in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the fund earmarked for the infrastructured development of those areas during Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (c) The National Action Plan on Tourism identified five Special Tourism Areas including Puri in Orissa. For the devleopment of infratructure in Puri Special Tourism Areas, the Government of Orissa has constituted a Speical Tourism Area Authority under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary.

(d) and (e) For the development of Special Tourism Areas in the country the Department of Tourism has made a budget provision of Rs. 2.00 crores during 1997-98. The allocation for Ninth Plan is not finalised.

Study Report of Area Development Plan for the Infrastructure Development of Kutch District in Gujarat

4112. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat have submitted the study Report on area development plan for the infrastructure development of Kutch District for promotion of tourism in the area;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mandavi an unknown destination rich in archaeology, craft goods, un-explored sea beach is an ideal place for youth tourism:

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have studied the report; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and by when the project is likely to be sanctioned for development of tourism there?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (d) The Area Development Plan prepared by Government of Gujarat has identified projects in Kutch for infrastructure development for promotion of Tourism in the area. These projects include tourist facilities, hotels, museums, handicraft village, etc. For the development of Mandavi, the Government of Gujarat has identified projects amounting to Rs. 2355.00 lakhs for private sector investment. These projects are development of health farms, resorts, sea cruises and a multicuisine restaurant and pedal boat facility etc.

The implementation of the Plan over a period of time is the responsibility of the State Government. Central financial assistance is provided to identified projects every year on the basis of receipt of specific proposals, merits of the projects, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

International Tourist Centres in the Country

4113. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of International Tourist Centres we have in our country;

(b) what is the criteria to declare a Tourist place, as International Tourist Centre; and

(c) the number of New International Tourist Centres are being opened in the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to